

Being the sermon

by Weiers Coetser

The Derry/Londonderry congregation in Northern Ireland chose a unique way to participate in the denomination's Global Youth Day initiative on Sabbath, 21 March.

They were among an estimated 8 million youth in 132 countries who responded to the General Conference Youth Department's challenge to worship differently on the day, and 'be the sermon'.

At midday, the whole congregation made its way to Ebrington Park at the centre of the city. They selected a pathway that crosses under the city's Peace Bridge, a key footbridge and tourist attraction that links two sides of the city. There on the pathway the members created a range of chalk-art that immediately attracted the attention of the passers-by.

'Derry/Londonderry is a city that has historically been known for its divided communities. The Peace Bridge, which was completed in 2011, has become a symbol of new hope for a united community,' explained Richard Roberts, a youth leader in the local congregation. 'We wanted to create something that celebrated this hopeful new reality and brought colour and cheer into people's lives.'

The weather was beautiful and young and old set about doing their artwork with great enthusiasm. 'Before long something interesting happened,' says Simone Coetser, another local youth leader. 'Two teenage girls who were walking around the park saw the activity and came to investigate. It was not long before they grasped what we were doing, took some chalk and joined in the creative process.'

'A father was walking with two of his children. As he passed they took in the artwork. He did not realise it immediately, but one of his children stopped, grabbed a piece of chalk and began drawing. A minute or two later the father walked back to collect his child, but he could not persuade the child to walk on, and the whole family ended up joining our project,' reports Simone.

'People stopped at the top of the Peace Bridge and took photos,' Richard reported. 'A lady who was walking her dog stopped and had a long conversation with our church members. The two teenage girls enjoyed the activity so much that they asked us to let them know when we are doing another fun activity like this. They would like to join in!'

Global Youth Day coincided with a significant weekend of activities in the city. Several thousand visitors and local people came out to watch the ceremonial burning of a balsam wood temple built on the top of one of the city hills. The Temple, an artwork by international artist, David Best, was also created as a tribute to peace in Northern Ireland. During the week before, the crowds who were visiting the temple were informed that they should not try to park close to the artwork on the hillside, but that they should park in the city centre. One of the main routes up to the art installation was over the city's Peace Bridge and past the church's chalk-art!



Photos: Richard Roberts and Simone Coetser

Note: It is important in many areas to seek permission before drawing chalk-art in public spaces. There are recent stories of artists being fined for making illegal graffiti because they did not get permission first.





IT'S TIME TO HIT THE STREETS!

GET INVOLVED AND JOIN OUR NEW ADRA STREET TEAM!!!
PROMOTE ADRA IN CHURCHES ACROSS THE UK!

LIMITED AVAILABILITY. PLACES ALLOCATED ON A FIRST COME FIRST SERVED BASIS!

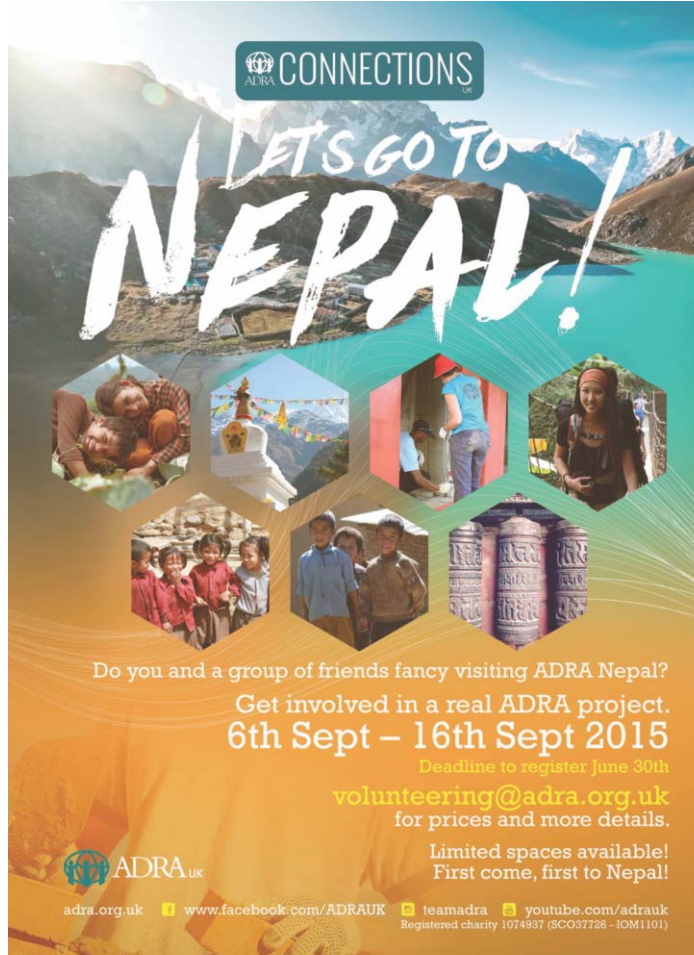
TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST, VISIT
WWW.ADRA.ORG.UK/GETINVOLVED,
OR CONTACT VOLUNTEERING@ADRA.ORG.UK

 ADRA UK

ADRA.ORG.UK

 WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/ADRAUK  [TEAMADRA](https://www.instagram.com/teamadra)

Registered Charity 1074937 (SC037726, IOM1101)




ADRA CONNECTIONS




LET'S GO TO NEPAL!

Do you and a group of friends fancy visiting ADRA Nepal?
Get involved in a real ADRA project.
6th Sept – 16th Sept 2015
Deadline to register June 30th

volunteering@adra.org.uk
for prices and more details.

Limited spaces available!
First come, first to Nepal!

 ADRA UK

adra.org.uk  www.facebook.com/ADRAUK  [teamadra](https://www.instagram.com/teamadra)  youtube.com/adrauk
Registered charity 1074937 (SC037726 - IOM1101)

editorial



Julian Hibbert
Editor

Missing childhoods

On the evening of 14 April last year, the feared and brutal Islamist group, Boko Haram, abducted 276 young girls from their school in Chibok, north-eastern Nigeria. Although 57 of them were able to escape shortly afterwards the rest have not been seen since they appeared in a propaganda video a month later.

On the anniversary of this event, Amnesty International reported that at least 2,000 Nigerian girls have suffered this fate in the last 12 months. According to the Boko Haram leader, Abubakar Shekau, the girls taken in the first raid 'had all converted to Islam and been "married off".'

It beggars belief

To me, the personal and protracted trauma of their parents beggars belief. I cannot begin to imagine how it must feel to have lost a precious daughter under such circumstances. What shape does your life take after such an event? Where do your worst and darkest thoughts lead you – day after day, night after night?

Malala Yousafzai, the seventeen-year-old Nobel peace laureate, has openly criticised the Nigerian government and the international community for not doing enough to rescue these girls. In doing so, she speaks not just for them, but for all children everywhere whose lives have been ruined in this way.

In an open letter to the girls she writes, 'I look forward to the day I can hug each one of you, pray with you and celebrate your freedom with your families. Until then, stay strong and never lose hope. You are my heroes.' Touching sentiments, indeed, and she has backed them up with a trust fund that will enable them to 'continue their education after their release.'

Sadly though, many of the young people kidnapped in this way are already receiving an education – one straight from hell! Daniel Eyre, an Amnesty International researcher,

claims that thousands of the girls kidnapped by Boko Haram are being trained to attack their own people! One nineteen-year-old he spoke to confirmed that she had been trained to use guns and explosives, then taken 'on an attack against her own village.'

These children are being used to enforce a brutal new 'moral' order where, as one boy told Daniel Eyre, 'He was forced to participate in the stoning of ten people only because they'd been accused of adultery.'

Missing childhoods

On 13 April UNICEF released an anniversary report entitled *Missing Childhoods* in which it claims that 'around 800,000 children have been forced to flee their homes as a result of the conflict in northeast Nigeria. . . .'¹ It is nothing but tragic that so many children have been forced to exchange the peace and security of normal childhood for the fugitive status of the displaced person.

Adults may think of war as a **killer**, but for children it's a **thief**. It robs them of childhood – that irreplaceable segment of life during which we should be allowed to enjoy our innocence to the full. Childhood is that rare freedom God gives us to be playful, exuberant, ridiculously curious and quite silly, all without too much embarrassment. It is a time when our mistakes and scrapes may earn us a good scolding, but are usually soon forgotten.

It can be fragile

War, crime, human trafficking and grooming – they all threaten childhood. That said, however, childhood can be quite fragile at the best of times. You don't need Boko Haram, an assault rifle or an abduction to destroy it. All you need is some of this: persistent marital tension; a humourless attitude towards adolescent mischief; severe, illogical and inconsistent religiosity; an unwillingness to answer questions; too few of those 'Wow, you are special!' moments; and a drought of good memory-making events.

The Gospels

The Gospels could have been written without reference to children and childhood, but they weren't. In fact, we find them interspersed with things relating to childbirth, childhood, adolescence, human development and a warm respect for children. We even find a boy being the hero of the day when Jesus uses his meagre lunch basket to feed a hungry audience of five thousand plus – one of His greatest miracles. We don't know his name but these words have immortalised his generosity: 'Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?' John 6:9 (NIV-UK).

Luke 2:41-52 places Jesus and His parents in Jerusalem during the Passover. He is twelve and appears to demonstrate some typical adolescent behaviour. The story tells us that after 'the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind . . . ' (vs. 43, NIV-UK). Sound familiar? Have you ever tried to find your young teenage son on the last day of a really big camp meeting?

As this brief story unfolds I sense His emerging independence; His apparent obliviousness to all but what passionately interests Him (what we call 'absentmindedness'); and His desire for convincing answers to questions He's bothered by. But the clearest sign of all is the new identity He is forming:

'When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you."

' "Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" ' (Verses 48, 49, NIV-UK, emphasis supplied.)

According to one expert, adolescents face 'two intertwined developmental tasks as they transition from childhood to adulthood: identity development and separation from the family'.⁶ That Jesus was in the process of developing both is obvious from Luke's narrative.

The transition from His being a Son of Joseph to being the Son of God was in full swing. But isn't that the real objective of every unfolding childhood? While our challenge is to make it happen.

Yes, UNICEF is right: 'They have the right to get their childhoods back.'⁷

¹<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-04-14/chibok-kidnappings3a-nigeria-marks-one-year-anniversary-of-the/6390384> ²<http://www.unicef.org.uk/Media-centre/Press-releases/800000-children-forced-to-flee-violence-in-Nigeria-and-region--Unicef/> ³<http://www.med.upenn.edu/psychotherapy/February2009--Whysmyteenactingthisway.html>



Enhancing Health

by Sharon Platt-McDonald, RGN, RM, RHV, MSc
Health Ministries director, BUC

GMOs – how safe are they?

In this issue we continue the discussion about which products can safely be called 'healthy alternatives' and examine the safety of genetically modified organisms (GMOs).

Let's take a look at the HRF's (HealthResearchFunding.org) research on GMOs¹ as they highlight the following pros and cons:

Pros – reported benefits of GM foods

- **Better overall quality and taste:** Flavours are enhanced through the modification of foods, which, for example, can make them more palatable and last longer.
- **More resistance to disease:** Genetic modification of plants and foods can enable them to become more resistant to unpredicted complications of disease.
- **More nutrition benefits:** Through genetic modifications GM foods can have vitamins and minerals added to them, thereby providing greater nutritive benefit when eaten. This happens commonly in developing countries.

Cons – reported problems of GM foods

- **Environmental damage:** There is a potential for irrevocable damage to environments where growing plants and raising livestock would not normally be supported in that environment. For example, where GM cross-breeding occurs, such as when weeds are crossed with GM plants and then become resistant to herbicides, it creates the need for more GM interventions.
- **There is no economic value:** Because GM foods take a long time to mature and the same amount of effort to grow, the economic value of producing GM foods in comparison to non-GM foods has been questioned.

Part 2

- **A growth in allergic reactions in the general population:** Repeated research has demonstrated that GM foods raise the risk for food-related allergies in people.² For example, when someone develops an allergy to soya due to GM intervention, if livestock eats that GM soya as well, the person eating the meat from that animal could have a higher probability of developing an allergic reaction.

A quote from the HealthResearchFunding.org website states: 'According to the genetically modified organism compass, the genetically modified soybeans are being used as a livestock feed and 70 percent of it can be found in most food crops in the United States that include soy milk, cereals, breads, meat and pasta. The genetically modified soybeans have hazardous effects on environment and human health.'³

GMO foods

Natural News⁴ have listed the following as just some of the genetically modified foods: corn, soy, cotton, papaya, rice, tomatoes, rapeseed, dairy products, potatoes and peas. However, concerns about their inadequate labelling leave the public unaware of which foods have been genetically modified.

Do the benefits of GMOs outweigh the risks? Scientists are undecided. The debate continues.

Be cautious!

¹<http://healthresearchfunding.org/pros-cons-genetically-modified-foods/> ²http://www.huffingtonpost.com/dr-mercola/soy-health_b_1822466.html ³<http://healthresearchfunding.org/genetically-modified-soybeans-pros-cons/> ⁴http://www.naturalnews.com/035734_GMOs_foods_dangers.html



devotional

How will you be remembered?

by W. E. Petersen

This brief story, attributed to a W. E. Petersen, first appeared in the October 1975 issue of the *Ensign* magazine.

One day, while Mr Miller was bagging some early potatoes for me, I noticed a small boy, delicate of bone and feature, ragged but clean, hungrily appraising a basket of freshly picked green peas.

I paid for my potatoes but was also drawn to the display of fresh green peas. I am a pushover for creamed peas and new potatoes.

Pondering the peas, I couldn't help overhearing the conversation between Mr Miller and the ragged boy next to me.

'Hello Barry, how are you today?'

'H'lo, Mr Miller. Fine, thank ya. Jus' admirin' them peas . . . sure look good.'

'They are good, Barry. How's your Ma?'

'Fine. Gittin' stronger alla' time.'

'Good. Anything I can help you with?'

'No, Sir. Jus' admirin' them peas.'

'Would you like to take some home?'

'No, Sir. Got nuthin' to pay for 'em with.'

'Well, what have you to trade me for some of those peas?'

'All I got's my prize marble here.'

'Is that right? Let me see it.'

'Here 'tis. She's a dandy.'

'I can see that. Hmmmmm, only thing is this one is blue and I sort of go for red. Do you have a red one like this at home?'

'Not zackley . . . but almost.'

'Tell you what. Take this sack of peas home with you and next trip this way let me look at that red marble.'

'Sure will. Thanks Mr Miller.'

Mrs Miller, who had been standing nearby, came over to help me. With a smile she said,

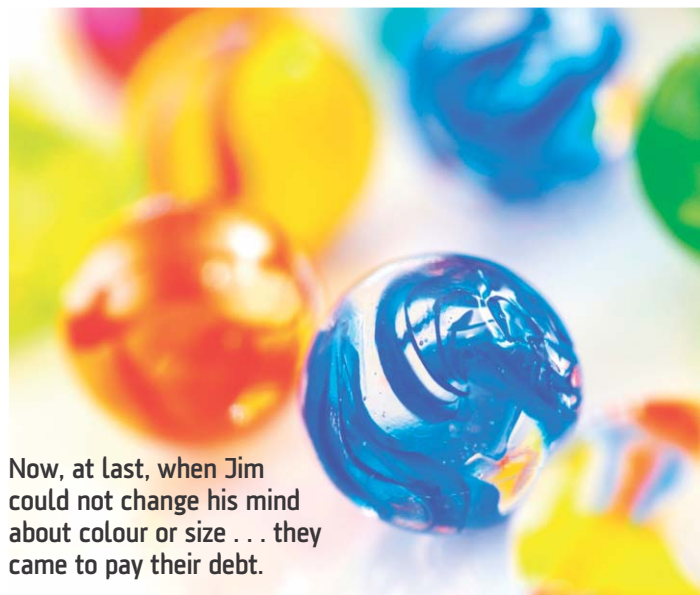
'There are two other boys like him in our community; all three are in very poor circumstances. Jim just loves to bargain with them for peas, apples, tomatoes, or whatever. When they come back with their red marbles, and they always do, he decides he doesn't like red after all and he sends them home with a bag of produce for a green marble or an orange one, perhaps.'

I left the stand smiling to myself, impressed with this man. A short time later I moved to Colorado but I never forgot the story of this man, the boys, and their bartering.

Several years went by, each more rapid than the previous one. Just recently I had occasion to visit some old friends in that Idaho community and while I was there learned that Mr Miller had died. They were having his viewing that evening, and, knowing my friends wanted to go, I agreed to accompany them.

Upon arrival at the mortuary we fell into line to meet the relatives of the deceased and to offer whatever words of comfort we could. Ahead of us in line were three young men. One was in an army uniform and the other two wore nice haircuts, dark suits and white shirts . . . all very professional looking.

They approached Mrs Miller, standing composed and smiling by her husband's casket. Each of the young men hugged her, kissed her on the cheek, spoke briefly with her and moved on to the casket. Her misty light blue eyes followed them as, one by one, each young man stopped briefly and placed his own warm hand over the cold, pale hand in the casket. Each left the mortuary



Now, at last, when Jim could not change his mind about colour or size . . . they came to pay their debt.

awkwardly, wiping his eyes.

Our turn came to meet Mrs Miller. I told her who I was and mentioned the story she had told me about the marbles. With her eyes glistening, she took my hand and led me to the casket. 'Those three young men who just left were the boys I told you about. They just told me how they appreciated the things Jim "traded" them. Now, at last, when Jim could not change his mind about colour or size . . . they

came to pay their debt.

'We've never had a great deal of the wealth of this world,' she confided, 'but right now, Jim would consider himself the richest man in Idaho.'

With loving gentleness she lifted the lifeless fingers of her deceased husband.

Resting underneath were three exquisitely shined red marbles.

SOUTH ENGLAND CONFERENCE STEWARDSHIP DEPARTMENT

London Adventist Credit Union (LACU) and Newbold College of Higher Education

PRESENTS

Finance & Fundraising Conference

Money, Mission & Making It Happen

10am-4pm, Sunday 3rd May 2015

Advent Centre
39 Brendon Street, London W1H 5HD

For more information contact Mavis Bramble on 01923 232728

10AM 10 MAY 2015

DIVERSITY & WOMEN'S ORDINATION SYMPOSIUM

'ADVENT CENTRE, LONDON'
Crawford Place, London. W1H 5JE

SPEAKERS

Dr. Jan Barna
Dr. Daniel Duda
Dr. Brighton Kavaloh
Dr. Emmanuel Osei

For more Information contact
01923 232 728 or email plee@secadventist.org.uk
SOUTH ENGLAND CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

76-year-old takes on 95-mile 5-day charity challenge

In May this year Scotland's seventy-six-year-old ADRA sponsor John Wilby, and his daughter Vivien, will be taking on the West Highland Way.

Extending from Milngavie, north of Glasgow, to Fort William, they plan to

complete the challenging 95-mile walk – in just five days. To sponsor them for ADRA go to: <http://www.justgiving.com/john-wilby2>



Ever had questions about our faith, doctrines or practice that you want to see resolved? In each issue I'll be hosting Q & A in an effort to answer them. *Andrew Puckering*

'Why do some Seventh-day Adventist congregations fast routinely on the first Sabbath of every month? Isn't fasting in the Scriptures a response to crisis?' *Leslene Peat-Brown*

A crisis was certainly one reason for a fast, as we can see from Jehoshaphat's fast when faced with many enemies (2 Chronicles 20:3), and Joel's plea to fast before the day of the LORD (Joel 1:14, 15), and Esther's mandate to fast before the threatened destruction of her people (Esther 4:15-17).

However, aside from national crises, one could fast for consecration (Exodus 34:28; Matthew 4:1, 2); to expedite healing or the expulsion of demons (2 Samuel 12:15-17; Psalm 35:13; Matthew 17:21); to express repentance (Jonah 3:5-9); to seek God's guidance (Acts 13:2, 3); or to mourn and grieve (2 Samuel 3:31-35). Many fasts seem to have been for a combination of these reasons (Nehemiah 1:1-4; Daniel 9:2, 3; 10:1-3; Joel 2:12-16; Acts 9:9). Ángel Manuel Rodríguez says that, while 'it is difficult to find one fundamental purpose for fasting', it 'seems to be an outward expression of the person's inner total commitment and reliance on God's preserving and rescuing power'.¹ One who fasts is saying to God, 'Your presence right now is even more important to me than my basic need for food!'

The General Conference has asked for prayer and fasting on the first Sabbath of each quarter, apparently to prepare for the session this year,² but we must strive to avoid hollow formalism. When the Jews returned from exile, they asked God whether they should still fast regularly to mourn for Jerusalem's destruction, in view of the fact that it was now being rebuilt (Zechariah 7:1-3). God's response was to ask them: 'When you fasted and mourned in the fifth and seventh months during those seventy years, did you really fast for Me – for Me?' (Vs. 5, NKJV.) Clearly, they had forgotten the point. The *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary* says of them, 'The fasts were a human invention and fulfilled no divine command. Evidently they were not prompted by true repentance for the sins that had brought destruction to the city and country.'³

Such repentance was the central reason for the divinely ordained fast each year on the Day of Atonement (Leviticus 16:29-31). In fact, repentance even without fasting is valuable in God's sight, whereas regular fasting even twice a week, if not with humility, is worthless (Luke 18:9-14). Don't do it just to be seen to be doing it (Matthew 6:16-18). Isaiah 58 makes the same point as Zechariah 7 – treating others with love is more of a 'fast' in God's eyes than outward displays of religiosity.

When you are close to God, it can be more appropriate to celebrate His presence with rejoicing, good eating and sending gifts than to fast (Nehemiah 8:1-12). Fasting should be saved for when you feel far from Him (Matthew 9:14, 15). In such times of need, fasting is valuable, when practised sincerely (Nehemiah 9:1-6). Then afterwards, as Zechariah 8:18-23 says, the former fasts will become joyful feasts, with everyone encouraging each other to come and worship the LORD!

¹<https://www.adventistbiblicalresearch.org/materials/practical-christian-living/what-purpose-religious-fasting> ²www.revivalandreform.org/mr-events ³*Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 4, p. 1101

Do you have a question you'd like to see answered in Q & A? Why not send it in to us at: editor@stanboroughpress.org.uk? If your question doesn't appear in the next issue, don't despair – we will deal with it in due course.



Why I am not an atheist

by Jim Cunningham

... a retired head teacher, Jim reflects on some of the core issues that challenge our Christian value system in the UK today.

The prevailing cultural ideology places many people in Britain, especially among the young, firmly against the traditional religious practices of their parents. Their outlook, thoughts and values are enormously affected by our secular society. Our political, scientific, literary and cultural leaders, almost to a person, declare themselves to be atheist. They defend their position by declaring that their perspective on reality is founded on more coherent, rational and evidence-based arguments. This creates a feeling of cultural superiority which is seductive to many brought up in this country. This is reinforced by an education system that is at best neutral to traditional religions, but unashamedly promotes secularism and its values.

Science or conjecture?

In fairness to atheists, like religious adherents, there is a wide spread of opinion and they vary in their evangelistic zeal – in the manner in which they promote their views. However, at the cornerstone of their argument is the view that naturalism or materialism (the laws of physics and chemistry) can account for anything that is worth knowing. These laws behave in a most arbitrary, purposeless and random way, but given sufficient time, and countless planets and universes, then

thinking, conscious life will emerge.

Needless to say there are no inherent properties within these laws that will direct such an outcome. The laws governing such a universe have to be refined beyond imagination, so that for some, the only plausible outcome is a sea of universes, beyond our ability to count, which will eventually (and randomly) permit a universe to exist that has the exact physical laws required to play host to life as we know it. Mathematics may predict that such an outcome is possible, but what has been painted is a mathematical, metaphysical landscape, which, by definition, is beyond the reaches of scientific experiment, and therefore cannot be proved empirically.

The multiverse

Lee Smolin, the eminent physicist, recognises the futility of this approach on a purist, scientific basis, and has proposed an alternative view. However, the view of the multiverse is considered to be based on strong scientific evidence among many atheists (and some believers). There is a desperation to explain 'being' without the presence of an omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscient, immutable God. This results in fanciful, speculative suggestions dressed up in scientific garb, so that atheists can explain

existence without the need for the Divine.

David Bentley Hart,¹ in his book, *The Experience of God: Being, Consciousness, Bliss*, makes the following statement: 'The very notion of nature as a closed system entirely sufficient to itself, is plainly one that cannot be verified, deductively or empirically, from within the system of nature.' To declare such is to adopt a metaphysical premise that is undeclared and inconsistent with their materialist perspective. As a Christian, I take the metaphysical stance that life, being and consciousness compel me to look outside the declared laws of nature to make any sense of existence. I suggest that such a consistent stance is surely more rational than the incoherency advocated by the naturalists. Science is central to my understanding of nature. However, not all statements by scientists are based on empirical evidence, and too frequently they reinforce a metaphysical point of view.

Violence

Perhaps the second view that drives people to atheism is the association of monotheistic religions with violence and the superiority of the values emanating from scientific humanism.

Having read William Cavanaugh's highly acclaimed book, *The Myth of Religious Violence*, it has reinforced a belief that I formed when I worked in Northern Ireland. It was conveniently put about that the root cause of the violence was traditional religion. Those, however, who chose to put aside their prejudices and be properly informed recognised that the Troubles were basically an anti-colonial conflict and that a number of prominent Protestants had, throughout Irish history, championed the republican cause.

The so-called religious wars of fifteenth-, sixteenth- and seventeenth-century Europe were very much about emerging states, and the Thirty Years War in Europe frequently had a mixture of Catholics and Protestants on opposing sides. Likewise, the current conflict between Shias and Sunnis in the Middle East is at heart a struggle for hegemony in the region between Iran and Saudi Arabia.

Associating historical Christianity with religious violence supports the campaign by some atheists to completely discredit Christian values. Having done so, atheists in the main can advance their own godless version of scientific humanism. John Gray, the philosopher, in a recent essay in the *Guardian*,² pointed out that this version of humanism, championed in the latter part of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, resulted in the dangerous and scientifically inept concept of eugenics. Ultimately, this gave the Nazis a rationale for their hideous, criminal policy of advancing the superiority of the Aryan race. If the atheists, Stalin and Mao had accepted the theological concept that we were originally made in the image of God, perhaps millions of their own citizens would not have been starved or murdered.

Modern humanism

However, it is the modern version of humanism, arising from the thinking of

Western individuals, who, shrouded in the sense of their own cultural superiority, deign to inform us what is right and what is wrong, what is just and what is unjust. Who has placed this group, with a sense of their own moral superiority, in a position that allows them to dictate how I should behave or think? In fact, they have made it clear that for certain breaches of this code there cannot and will not be any forgiveness. Plainly put, I have an aversion to such arrogance.

Indeed, it is the sport of some of the most militant of these atheists to caricature the character of God, based purely on their poor understanding of parts of the Old Testament narrative. They neglect the picture of God's forgiving, caring, loving nature, which is found throughout its pages, and ignorantly neglect the theme of redemption upon which they are all predicated. The clincher for me, when it comes to the character of God, is found in the

description of the sacrificial, loving, just, and merciful actions of Christ. He provides for me the principles underpinning justice, and a set of values which are universal and have existed from time immemorial. These principles and values did not arise out of some divine debate, but are inseparable from the notion of the eternal God in Whom I believe.

Our challenge

My suspicion is that the better parts of the humanists' array of values will prove very fragile if the Western economies come under extreme strain, or the resources which underpin our way of life are denied.

Over the years, I have seen an increasing number of white and black British young people flee the church of their parents, because they are attracted to the alternative version of reality propagated in the media, by our education system, and through the

pervading secular culture. To some young people, the language of the church is a strange, nonsensical affair, and sometimes their searching questions, which arise from what they see as inconsistencies between their scientific beliefs and our interpretations of certain biblical texts, are dismissed by some of us as a lack of faith. We leave them with nowhere to go but the exit door. In their wake is the devastating sense of loss by their parents, and, too frequently, the complacent, self-satisfied response of those of us who remain in the church.

Our challenge, as a church, is to respond to this serious issue so that we can stop this haemorrhaging, and in particular to respond to the young people of African parentage, before our British, secular culture pushes them through the exit door.

¹Quote from p. 17 of Hart's book ²Article published in the *Guardian* of 3 March 2015: 'What Scares the New Atheists'

Behind the scenes...

The work done by the staff at ADRA-UK is life-changing. In fact, for many thousands of people, ADRA's development and relief efforts may be the only outside help they will ever receive. The funds that you entrust annually to this internationally respected aid agency are truly changing the world – one life at a time!

In the next few months we will let the members of their staff tell you a bit about 'what makes them tick'. Here are the first two... meet Bert and Tom.

Bert Smit is the CEO of ADRA-UK and is known to many in the BUC. This is how he feels about his work in this important agency of the Adventist Church.

I'm just an ordinary Dutch guy that feels more at home in England than anywhere else in the world. I joined the Adventist Development and Relief Agency United Kingdom (ADRA-UK) as the director (CEO) in January 2006. However, before this I worked as a pastor, later going on to direct church media organisations in various parts of the world.

If asked years ago, I would never have imagined having the best job in the world. But that is what I feel it is; I have the privilege to lead a team of development workers to make real differences in the lives of tens of thousands of impoverished and desperate people around the world. It really doesn't get much better than that! In the last eight years we have been able to channel over £15m in aid to more than forty countries around the world. What a wonderful result!

The best thing that we have done in recent years is to set a clear strategic direction for our work, thereby focusing increasingly on sustainable support for the poorest communities in the least developed and lowest-income countries.

All of this would not be possible without thousands of people in the UK that provide essential financial help to our work. If you are one of them: thank you! If you have never considered supporting ADRA-UK: have a closer look – you may find yourself pleasantly surprised by what we do and how you can help!

So many people trust ADRA-UK to do something wonderful in a difficult world. I have indeed seen how our daily work changes the lives of people. The very people we support inspire us all at ADRA-UK. That's why we work hard to ensure that every penny you raise and every moment of our time make that difference.

Therefore, when I have the privilege to meet those we have helped, and I sit down and talk with them about how things have changed for the better, then I truly know: 'This is the best job in the world!'

Thank you for working with us to empower communities and change lives every day!

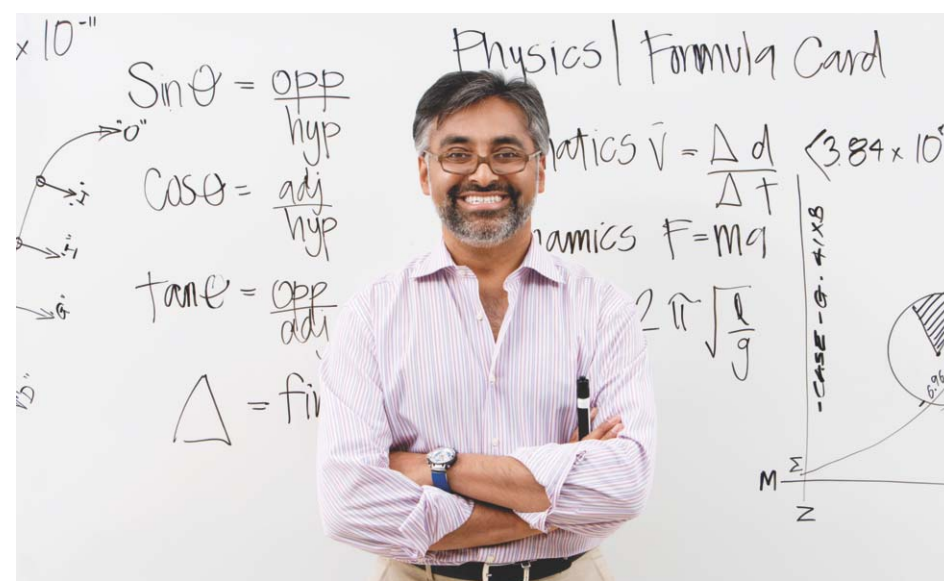
Tom Pignon has been a programmes officer with ADRA-UK for the past five years. Here is his take on the work he does.

If you were to ask me what I enjoy most about the work I do, it would be the travel. But not just the mere act of travelling around the world, which despite being enjoyable does have its drawbacks when one has a young family back home! It's only when I travel that I get to meet the people that ADRA is working hard to help... the elderly lady whose home ADRA rebuilt after it was destroyed by a typhoon; the mother who can now increase her dollar-a-day income because of the small-business skills she has learnt through an ADRA project; and the father whose daughter now has access to healthcare and education despite her disability, all due to the work of ADRA.

As a programmes officer, I spend a lot of time sat behind a desk assessing reports to ensure that our projects are on track and achieving what we set out to achieve, applying for new funding, keeping abreast of development issues and providing support to our partner organisations. But it is when I travel that the stories in the reports and the statistics on the page become a reality. And that is why I do this job. It's been five years since I joined the Adventist Development and Relief Agency United Kingdom (ADRA-UK) as a programmes officer/emergencies co-ordinator in 2010. Before becoming part of the team here I'd worked in emergency planning and response in the UK with the British Red Cross and local authorities, as well as overseas for an aid agency in Angola and Afghanistan.

They say all good things must come to an end, and so it is with my ADRA-UK role. I've had five very enjoyable and fulfilling years in the team here, and there is an element of sadness in moving on. However, the future is exciting and I will soon be moving to the Philippines with my family to take on the role of programme director for ADRA Philippines, taking a wealth of experience and skills that I have picked up by being part of the professional team at ADRA-UK.

TOM PIGNON (PROGRAMMES OFFICER)





Kenyan village celebrates 100 years of Adventism

by Phelix Ochola Majiwa, PhD

Pastor Arthur Carscallen, known among the Luo people as Bwana Kaskal, arrived at Ogango, now known as Gendia, in 1906. In 1914 he planted a Seventh-day Adventist church at Wikondiek, Karachuonyo, Nyanza, Kenya. It was here that the first camp meetings in East Africa were held in 1932. From 21 to 27 December last year, Wikondiek community celebrated the centenary of this historic event.

The local Adventist community used the occasion to express their thankfulness to God for being with them for the 100 years since His word first reached them, and to show their continuing dependence on His provisions and promises. The theme for the event aptly captured the feeling of the members: 'To God Be the Glory'.

The proceedings were joyously and enthusiastically supported by all, and a booklet, *Wikondiek @100*, summarising the history of Wikondiek Church, was published to mark the occasion. It was well received and proved popular among people of different age groups.

The celebrations started on 21 December 2014, but were officially opened on Wednesday, 24 December, by the governor of Homa Bay County, Mr Cyprian Awiti, who was welcomed to the venue with great pomp and ceremony by a special Pathfinder guard of honour.

In his speech, the governor expressed his admiration and respect for the spirit of brotherly love and harmony that was evident among the gathered Seventh-day Adventists.

The Pathfinders had set up a camp near the Wikondiek School football field, the venue of the event, one week in advance. These young men and women came from the Wikondiek, Kowuor, Adiedo and Omboga Adventist churches, and they spent long hours during



both day and night practising their different drill formations under the keen eyes of their leaders.

Theirs was no easy task, yet they did it all with so much joy and passion. Each morning they would don their uniforms and muster on the parade ground and start the formal ceremony of the day by raising the flags. This was accompanied by a series of elaborate parades in step with appropriate music.

The Kenya Lake Field provided much-needed support for the event by sending pastors who preached eloquent and uplifting sermons on each of the seven days during the event.

The sermons were very uplifting indeed, with each one of them both topical and relevant for the occasion.

Upon invitation, the people responded generously by bringing sundry gifts to be used in the extension of God's kingdom, giving generously in cash and kind. Many animals – cattle, sheep, goats, and chickens – and various harvest crops were brought to the front as gifts, all of which were sold at a lively auction conducted by Pastor John Olweny.

Besides all these material gifts, there were also the precious people (10 in total) who gave their lives to Christ as their Lord and Saviour. They were all baptised the following day in River Awach nearby. Mr Hyde Rachuonyo Ochuodho, son of Jacob Ochuodho, the first elder of Wikondiek Church, was one of those baptised.

Although the pastors had very tight schedules, they found the time to visit some community members in their homes for prayers and to encourage them in their faith.

The Wikondiek members took this occasion to offer prayers at the

foundation for a new, much larger, church building, necessary now to accommodate the continuously increasing church membership. The new church building will cost approximately 27 million Kenya shillings (approximately US\$300,000).

The week-long ceremony turned the normally sleepy village into a lively hive of activity.

A gathering of this kind would be incomplete without lots of good singing, and for these centennial celebrations choirs from many different Adventist churches were invited. Their music was inspirational entertainment, all to the praise and glory of God.

The Sabbath day's packed programme was brought to an end by a sermon, delivered by Pastor Tobias Panyako, Executive Director, Kenya Lake Field, and this marked the end of the celebrations.

By Sunday morning, 28 December, the campsite was being dismantled and the members, young and old, were happy and ready to return to their homes, their mission accomplished.

The best and most valuable part of the centenary celebrations had already been packed up and tucked into the heart of each one who came to hear the Word.

The preaching was done with eloquence, vigour and sincerity, most probably as it was when preached for the first time to the people of Wikondiek 100 years ago. This time, in contrast to then, African people preached to fellow Africans.

Many of the people in attendance had their own copies of the Bible in either English or their own languages. This was impossible 100 years ago. The only book of the Bible available then in DhoLuo was the Gospel of St Matthew translated by Pastor Arthur B. Carscallen, the missionary who had planted the Seventh-day Adventist church at Wikondiek.



Arthur Asa Grandville Carscallen (1879-1964)



Canadian-born missionary, administrator, and linguist. He was baptised in North Dakota in 1899, and attended Union College in 1900 and 1901. In 1902 he was sent to work as a colporteur in Scotland, Wales, and England. He also assisted in evangelistic meetings, and in 1904 entered Duncombe Hall Training College (now Newbold College), where he completed

his course in September 1906.

In 1906 he accepted a call to open up Seventh-day Adventist work in Kenya, East Africa, with the arrangement that his fiancée, Helen Thomson, be sent out the next year. After his ordination, late in 1906, he sailed for Mombasa with Peter Nyambo, an African teacher from Nyasaland who had been attending school in England.

Carscallen spent the next 13 years pioneering in Kenya as superintendent of the British East Africa Mission. Under his direction a string of mission stations was established along the eastern shore of Lake Victoria: Gendia, Wire Hill, Rusinga Island, Kanyadoto, Karungu, Kisii (Nyanchwa), and, last, Kamagambo. Returning from furlough in 1913, he brought back a small press and set up a small printing plant at Gendia to publish books,

papers, and a small monthly journal.

He mastered the Luo language and was among the first to reduce it to writing. The grammar textbook he produced was widely used for many years. He spent more than two years translating the Gospel of Matthew into the Luo language, which was published by the British and Foreign Bible Society in 1913. This makes him the first Seventh-day Adventist translator to have his work approved and published by this organisation.

He went on to work in other areas of the Adventist mission field but needs to be remembered as the first missionary sent out by the British Adventist church to the continent of Africa.

Adapted from the *Seventh-day Adventist Encyclopedia*, volume 10, page 300

Spare a thought for the persecuted . . .

by the Editor

Open Doors is an organisation that serves and supports persecuted Christians worldwide and their website makes very interesting reading. Among the facts that I gleaned from it are the following:

'According to The Pew Research Centre, over 75% of the world's population live in areas with severe religious restrictions (and many of these people are Christians). Also, according to the United States Department of State, Christians in more than 60 countries face persecution from their governments or surrounding neighbours simply because of their belief in Jesus Christ.'

They go on to cite that on average, 322 Christians a month are killed because of their faith, while 214 churches and other properties used for Christian purposes are destroyed during the same period. They also maintain a 'watch list' of the fifty countries where persecution is most likely to occur and North Korea tops the list. As for the rest, there were not too many surprises for me except for Kenya at 19 and Tanzania at 33. Somehow I didn't expect to find them on the list.

Why am I telling you about persecution? Well, there is a simple reason: just recently I met a man who has been in the thick of it. Let me share some of his story with you.



Pastor Benedict Biswas has worked for our church for the past 34 years, initially as a literature evangelist, selling our books from door to door. Later on, as his talents were recognised, promotion followed and he graduated through the various levels of publishing leadership. Today Benedict is the publishing director of the Southern Asia Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, a vast area that embraces Bhutan, India, the Maldives, and Nepal – countries that are home to 1,324,501,000 people, a large slice of humanity.

At present this division has 4,359 churches and a membership of 1,524,916.²

Challenges

Benedict has some real challenges to face in his mission to put life-saving literature in the hands of as many people as possible. Firstly, out of all those many members, at last count he only had 557 literature evangelists at his disposal – both part and full-time. Secondly, despite the fact that they have their own publishing house, they just can't get enough good quality literature to sell to the general public. They also lack books, magazines and tracts – resources that can nurture their vast membership – especially the Spirit of Prophecy books, which are in great demand.

Persecution

Thirdly, in many parts of India Christians face severe persecution and

Adventists are not excluded from it. In some states there is more tolerance towards Christians and they are allowed to proselytise freely. In others, however, witnessing is a life-threatening activity.

According to Benedict, things are so bad in some communities that religious fanatics will openly and systematically try to convert Christians back to the Hindu faith by force. They will go on the offensive, seeking out such people and brutalising them just as Paul did in Acts 8:3 (NIV): 'But Saul began to destroy the church. Going from house to house, he dragged off both men and women and put them in prison.'

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is largely behind this persecution. Also known as the Indian People's Party, this right-wing organisation is the country's largest political party and 'the world's largest party in terms of primary membership'.³ Apparently, in many places it is even influential enough to enforce censorship of news reports about persecution, or, worse still, to burn down any publisher or printer who might dare to run them.

A narrow escape

Pastor Biswas has fresh first-hand experience of persecution. It took place during the latter half of last year while he was leading a group from door to door in the distribution of literature. Things went well until he gave a book to a young boy outside one of the homes. Without hesitation the lad ran off and Benedict knew immediately that they were in for trouble.

The boy must have gone straight to the local BJP supporters, for within minutes four men appeared, one of them wielding a stick. Benedict tried to calm them down and explain that his little group meant no harm in the neighbourhood, but these ruffians weren't in the mood to listen. One of them slapped his face while another laid into them with the stick. With no option but to run for it, they took off in the direction of their car. However, things were not that simple. If they stopped to climb into the car Benedict knew it would be stoned and set alight. They too might be caught and burnt alive.

Fortunately his quick thinking – and their guardian angels – saved the day. 'Keep running!' he shouted, and they did. Eventually their attackers tired and the driver of the car was able to pull away, pick them up and drive off to safety.

Benedict gave me to understand that such incidents are commonplace in some areas, but despite such dangers, his brave literature evangelists keep knocking on doors, sharing their faith and selling our truth-filled literature. Although there is danger, there is also success, for it seems that our literature is helping Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs find the peace and happiness that they are looking for.

¹<https://www.opendoorsusa.org/christian-persecution/> ²<http://www.adventistyearbook.org/ViewAdmField.aspx?AdmFieldID=SUD> ³http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bharatiya_Janata_Party

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

Knowing GOD'S HEART

SEC CAMP MEETING

15 - 21 JUNE 2015

PONTINS CAMBER SANDS HOLIDAY PARK
NEW LYDD RD, CAMBER SANDS, SUSSEX TN31 7RL



SCOTT RITSEMA
SPEAKER
MEDIA ON THE BRAIN



PR ROYSTON PHILBERT
COMMITMENT SPEAKER



DR JAMES HORSLEY
UCHEE PINES MEDICAL DIRECTOR



PR JUVENAL BALISASA
PRAYER & PRAISE SPEAKER



PR MICHAEL KELLY
YOUTH SPEAKER



DR LEHEL SOMOGYI
NATURAL REMEDIES IN THE 21ST CENTURY



DR CHIDI NGWABA
LIFESTYLE MEDICINE SPEAKER



DR MAGDOLINA SOMOGYI
NATURAL REMEDIES IN THE 21ST CENTURY

www.cristyleproductions.com



Daily Commitment Messages, Health and Lifestyle Plenary Sessions, Power Hour and Fitness Sessions
FOR MORE INFO PLEASE CALL 01923 232 728 OR EMAIL CAMPMEETING@SECADVENTIST.ORG.UK
BOOKING FORMS AVAILABLE AT SEC.ADVENTIST.ORG.UK/EVENTS



2015 SEC BOOKING FORM

Please complete this Booking Form and send it directly to:
Pontin's Ainsdale House, Shore Road, Ainsdale, Southport. PR8 2PZ
TEL: 08714 742765

Accommodation:														
Booking ref _____	Holiday location CAMBER SANDS				Number of apartments									
Arrival date <u>15 June 2015</u>	Departure date <u>21 June 2015</u>				Club: <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>									
No. of nights <input type="checkbox"/>	Total persons <input type="checkbox"/>		Total no. apartments/rooms <input type="checkbox"/>		(C) 1 bedr'm 2 bedr'm									
Number of people between the following ages (age at date of holiday)					Self Catering:									
Total	60+	45-59	26-44	18-25	12-17	8-11	5-7	2-4	Under 2	Classic: <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>				
										(K) 1 bedr'm 2 bedr'm				
										Popular: <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>				
										(P) 1 bedr'm 2 bedr'm				
										X				
										Beds: <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>				
										Single Double Twin				

Prices	C1 Club	C2 Club	K1 Classic	K2 Classic	B1 Popular	B2 Popular
	1 bedroom apartment for up to 4 persons (min 2)	2 bedroom apartment for up to 6 persons (min 4)	1 bedroom apartment for up to 4 persons (min 2)	2 bedroom apartment for up to 6 persons (min 4)	1 bedroom apartment for up to 4 persons (min 2)	2 bedroom apartment for up to 6 persons (min 4)
Discount to 28/2/15	£525.00	£665.00	£435.00	£560.00	£335.00	£435.00
From 1/3/15	£550.00	£700.00	£455.00	£590.00	£350.00	£455.00

Party Details:									
Title	Initial	Surname	No. of Rooms	Age*	Title	Initial	Surname	No. of Rooms	Age*

* Please note – first named person must be over age 18. Special requests not guaranteed. Maximum persons in 2 bedr'm Apartment is 6.

Address of First-Named on Booking Form:	
Name:	Home Tel:
Street:	Business Tel:
Town:	Email Address:
County:	Post Code:

Special Needs/Requirements Section:

Wheelchair Accessible apartment

Ground Floor apartment

Please note all requests will be dealt with on a first come first served basis.

** OFFER CODE: **SDA15** **

Nb. 1½% admin charge applies to all card transactions.

Declaration:
I agree on behalf of all persons named above to abide by Pontins' conditions. I accept the charges for accommodation and agree to pay the balance 58 days before the holiday date. By entering into a contract with you I understand that the details I provide will be used in booking and providing my chosen holiday. **(PLEASE sign here)**

Local Minister's Signature: _____

Print Ministers Name: _____

Church Name: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____



Strong Families NEC 2015 Strong Churches

Guest Speakers



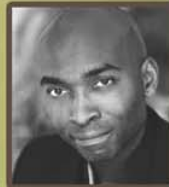
DWAYNE LEMON
MAIN SPEAKER



SEBASTIAN BRAXTON
MIDDAY MANNA



DR ROBERT KENNEDY
BIBLE STUDY



DR CHIDI NGWABA
HEALTH SPEAKER



MICHAEL CARDUCCI
YOUTH SPEAKER



DR ERIC WALSH
YOUTH SPEAKER



Music by Harmonic Voices

CAMP MEETING
8 - 14 JUNE 2015
BUTLINS
HOLIDAY PARK
SKEGNESS

TO MAKE YOUR BOOKING OR FOR MORE INFORMATION
PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.NECADVENTIST.ORG.UK
BUTLINS SKEGNESS RESORT, INGOLDMELLS, SKEGNESS, LINCOLNSHIRE, PE25 1NJ



REBUILDING THE WALLS - REBUILDING PEOPLE | REBUILDING RELATIONSHIPS | INSPIRING EXCELLENCE **SCAN ME**



Study at Newbold

Quality Education

We encourage all students to seek, to discover, to inquire, to think, to communicate clearly and to understand life, learning, teaching and civic responsibility from a Christian point of view.

Christ-Centred Education

Adventist College

We encourage all students to develop as individuals in a Christ-centred and inclusive learning community operated by the Adventist Church.

Spiritual Atmosphere

We encourage all students to develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and to demonstrate personal integrity at all times.

Mission Orientated

We encourage all students to participate in activities consistent with the worldwide mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

FREE * VISIT PROGRAMME

| www.newbold.ac.uk/visit-us


Visit our campus and experience Newbold for yourself for up to two nights and three days, for free.*

Attend classes and worship, stay and eat on campus, and join in with student life.

If you visit us and then enrol, you are eligible to claim up to £150* worth of travel expenses from your visit - keep your receipts.


*See website for terms & conditions.

"The best thing about studying here has been learning about the Christian perspectives on Business, and how you can work without losing who you are or changing your values.



Anastasia, Business

"If someone from my congregation asked me if they should study at Newbold, I would say 'go for it! Brace yourself for a new, bold and mind-opening experience.' When I was a student, I felt a really strong God-given sense of belonging.



NJ Ndlovu, Theology

CONTACT US TODAY AND BEGIN YOUR JOURNEY
WWW.NEWBOLD.AC.UK/STUDY



The pastors

NEC Pathfinder award and investiture day

March 14 was a very special Sabbath in the calendar of the North England Conference because of an event held at the Riverside Centre in Derby, where more than five hundred gathered to share in this landmark event.

It was an historic investiture service, for, among the thirty-four candidates who received their credentials as Master Guides, there were seven pastors, one departmental director and two administrators. There were others too who received awards for developing their Master Guide skills.

One member of the drill team, Joel Pryce, was invested with the Pathfinder Leadership Award. Pastor Alan Hush received his Advanced Pathfinder Leadership Award along with three others: Area Co-ordinator Mark Sinclair, Area Co-ordinator Henry Channer, and Anolin Stevens. Aiko Ramdin (wife of Youth Director Adam) received the Master Guide candidate of the year award.

In addition to this, four people from Bradford church were recognised for their outstanding service to Pathfinders over the years:



The invested group

Thulani Lisa Ngwenya, Mutizwa Rushwaya, Chrissie Tafatatha, and Otilia Tozana.

As noted above, the Conference president, treasurer, and youth director were invested as Master Guides, which prompted one member to remark that 'Pathfinding has received a significant boost with the support of so many pastors and two administrators'. Another said that they 'look forward to see the pastors' contribution to their local clubs'.

There was also time for reflection as the NEC recognised the leadership of former Pathfinder directors: Pastor Trevor Thomas (2003-2011); Michael Rossiter (1996-2003); and Pastor Cyril Sweeney (1993-1996). Pastors Thomas and Sweeney were warmly received and welcomed by all. They were presented with a service award for the development of the work and the legacy they have left within the NEC. Sadly, Michael was unable to attend and received his in absentia.

Pastors Hush, Thomas, and Sweeney highlighted the outstanding leadership and expertise of Michael Rossiter, whom 'we look up to as the father of Pathfinders in the NEC'.

VOAHANGY BOHOUSSOU (NEC)



NEC Pathfinder leadership course

On 15 February, ten candidates had a very good start to the Advanced Pathfinder Leadership Award (APLA) course, which is under the guidance of Pastor Alan Hush from the North England Conference. This course is run only every two years, and lasts nearly two years.

This course has an advanced curriculum which aims to train and equip leaders in Pathfinders to, in turn, train and equip young Pathfinders. It is hoped that the improved leadership and other skills attained will qualify attendees to be better role models, and enable them to provide the necessary guidance to the young Pathfinders in their care.

The course co-ordinator, John Bishop, led out in a full-day introduction, which included an introduction to journalism by Mrs Geraldene Farmer, NEC Communication director.

Course attendees hope to be invested in 2016, and are very appreciative of the Church, which provides them with such education as can assist in preparing themselves and the Pathfinders for eternity.

SUREEN RAYAVARAPU, APLA CANDIDATE, MANCHESTER SOUTHERN ASIA CHURCH



BOOKSALES

<p>April 26 Croydon</p> <p>May 3 Holloway 17 Sheffield Burngreave 31 John Loughborough</p>	<p>10am-2pm</p> <p>10am-2pm 10am-2pm 10am-2pm</p>	<p>Adventist Book Center.com</p>
--	---	---

ABC Shops
Watford, BUC, Monday-Thursday - 12.30-5pm, Friday - 10am-2pm.
01923 893461
Birmingham, Aston-Newton, Wednesday - 11am-4pm, Thursday - 4pm-8pm.
Sunday - 11am-3pm.
0121 3286380
Advent Centre, Mondays & Wednesdays - 6.30pm-8.30pm.
Sundays - 11am-3pm, Saturdays - November, December, January: After sunset.
0207 7236849

Order on our Sales Hotline
01476 591700 sales@stanboroughpress.org.uk



Going beyond

Our young adults are still talking about the 'Going Beyond – Young Adults Ministries training conference 2015' held in Wokefield Park Mansion House, Reading, from 20 to 22 February. It left them excited and saying that it was an 'out-of-this-world event; sign me up for the next one'.

There have been drastic changes since 2005 and the General Conference has shifted emphasis from Adventist Youth Societies to Adventist Youth Ministries. 'Going Beyond' took

pastors, federation leaders and our youth on a journey in the world of youth evangelism. They were also shown how to manage their time in their relationship with God, His Church and the many other things they do. The conference also provided an arena for youth departments to present their plans and gain funding for their forthcoming youth events. This journey was led by the guest speakers: Pastor Lola Moore, Pastor and Mrs Rogers, Paul Thompson and Pastor Thomas.

Pastor Lola Moore inspired our young adults to be relevant and contemporary in ministry and to utilise technology within evangelism. Pastor David Rogers' workshop was focused on those who will attend the ShareHim Mexico evangelistic programme (16 June – 12 July). He helped those who intend to preach to know those elements that are pertinent for good evangelistic preaching.

Joan Rogers' timely workshops motivated her listeners to manage their time well by evaluating how we spend our time, enabling the young person to find a healthy life balance and spend meaningful and

Stanborough Park investiture 2015

'O the King is coming, the King is coming! Praise God, He's coming for me!' sang our Adventurers and Pathfinders as they were being invested on 7 February. 'Disciples for Jesus' was the theme of a busy and exciting Pathfinder year, during which the club raised more than £12,000 to attend two overseas camporees in 2014: Oshkosh in the USA and the Trans-European Camporee in Holland.

'The camporee was truly a blessed and enriching experience. It has helped to deepen my faith and I am positive that it has had the same effect on many other Pathfinders.' This was one of the submissions by the Pathfinders as they did a Mission Spotlight on Oshkosh 2014. At that camporee the drill team, ably led by Counsellor Zayne Muller-Smith, achieved third place in the Freestyle team competition.

Members of the club continued to let their lights shine in community outreach programmes during 2014. Visits were made to a care home;



effective time with God. Pastor Thomas spoke on planning youth work and highlighted the five areas/goals that should be focused on. Finally, Paul Thompson had the young adults thinking financially and gave guidelines on managing youth budgets in a local church setting. The final session of the weekend saw the young adults gather together in church groups to plan outreach programmes and projects with workable budgets. These were then presented to the SEC Youth Department Panel, who were able to allocate substantial funding to over 30 church groups.

Another highlight of the weekend was 'An Evening of Praise', a new element introduced on the Sabbath evening. Delegates were given the opportunity to praise God using music and the spoken word. The evening was concluded with items by Lyrical Soldier, Sandria Rickette (our singing evangelist from Canada) and Pastor Lola Moore, who sang tracks from her forthcoming EP, 'It Was You'. The evening was enjoyed by all and many stayed into the early hours of the morning, just singing praises and worshipping God.

Weeks after the event, the delegates' pastors are still reporting back with the great reports they received from their young people. One said, 'My youth just cannot stop talking about it. They said it was fantastic.'

This event was booked out and many left it too late to apply and, unfortunately, could not attend. We advise youth to look out for upcoming events and book early to avoid disappointment. Resources from all SEC youth events can be found at www.secyouth.org.uk.

PASTOR STEVE A. THOMAS (SEC YOUTH DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR)

Note: The SEC Youth Department is responsible for young people age 18-35, which are called young adults. This is the term used in many of the Adventist articles as well as in the new GC Senior Youth Handbook, and is increasingly being used by the majority of the Adventist Conferences, Unions and Divisions.



Stanborough News leaflets were distributed; and teams collected donations for ADRA. Two of our Pathfinders, Daniella Bernard and Giovanna Gayle, dedicated their lives to God in baptism. Caroline Kumara, Pathfinder director of Watford Town Church, gave the investiture charge, reminding the club of the Adventurer/Pathfinder laws and pledges.

FLORENCE ALLEN
PHOTOGRAPHS: DANIEL SABATIER



PM leaders 'go forward'

Hundreds of eager evangelists packed the Britannia Country House Hotel in Didsbury from Friday to Sunday, 23-25 January, for the 'Go Forward' North England Conference Personal Ministries Retreat. British Union Conference president, Pastor Ian Sweeney, joined NEC president, Pastor Lorraine Johnson, and NEC Personal Ministries and Evangelism director, Pastor Michael Simpson, in aiding local church leaders in 'moving their individual churches forward in evangelism'.

The weekend was split into three parts: (a) reflecting on the journey so far; (b) looking at what we must do now to evangelise; and (c) examining what we can do to evangelise in the future.

One of the most encouraging features of the weekend was the high percentage of young Adventists from all over the north, many of whom took leading roles in both the running of the event and the presentation of its content. Some are also currently serving as PM leaders in their churches.

One young speaker, Naison Chitiyo, led out in the Sabbath morning devotional, explaining that the Holy Spirit doesn't just work through methods but also through men.

In the main service the Wednesfield and Leicester youth performed a play, called 'Pioneer Stories', that took Adventists back to their roots: the idea being that unless you understand your past, how can you possibly move forward? They dressed up as pioneers of the past and used their own creatively made props throughout.

It was a dynamic performance and everyone in the audience was moved. The youth involvement in the play emphasised that the Church was started by young people, and will move forward with young people. Pastor Simpson then spoke on the NEC 'Mission in Motion' for 2015, followed by Pastor Sweeney, who preached on the life and ministry of Jeremiah – showing that preaching God's Word can have consequences – not all of them pleasant.

He concluded with Ellen White's advice to move into the cities to carry out the work of evangelism: 'Why should not families who know the present truth settle in these cities and villages, to set up there the standard of Christ, working in humility, not in their own way, but in God's way, to bring the light before those who have no knowledge of it?' (*Christian Service*, p. 180.) Pastor Sweeney emphasised that 'we need people to move into the cities who will be and do like Jeremiah, live and proclaim God's Word. . . . Some of us live our Christian lives selfishly, while Ellen G. White was all about mission. If all we are doing is preparing for a persecution without proclaiming God's Word to people who are in darkness, we are selfishly running from people who aren't even chasing us.'

On Sabbath afternoon there were several breakout sessions and workshops focused on evangelism, such as: 'How to gain Bible



studies', and 'How to do a Bible study'. Danella Taylor expressed the idea that you can't have one rigid method of working; you need to understand whom you're trying to reach when you evangelise. 'It's about having a cultural intelligence so we can become all things to all men,' she said.

The importance of good fellowship, bridge-building evangelism and social activities was also discussed, as well as outreach activities such as Sabbath School in the park.

The final workshop raised the point that the word 'friendship' is attractive and positive to the general public, while the word 'evangelism' sounds frightening; yet, at its best, 'friendship is evangelism'. Pastor Simpson pointed out that 'we need to stop thinking about how many souls we can win, and start seeing people as friends . . . making strong, unconditional friendships with them and witnessing to them in love. . . .' He added, 'We need to stop throwing tracts aimlessly at strangers in the street and start our evangelism journey by witnessing to friends and family first, neighbours, work colleagues, making strong friendship circles and bonds where we can witness sincerely, guided by the Holy Spirit.'

The event closed on Sunday with further talks and presentations relevant to the theme. This weekend retreat was spiritually led, reverent and guided by the Holy Spirit throughout.

SARA FRANCIS

A selection of photos from the weekend can be found by visiting the Adventist Church picture gallery (adventist.org.uk/news/gallery).

MTTC Manchester

MEET Ministry commenced a Gospel-health training programme as part of the Manchester Mission to the Cities initiative on Friday, 30 January 2015 at Oakland House, Talbot Road, Manchester.

Although the 10-day Gospel-health training was organised for health teams in Manchester, people travelled from as far away as Birmingham, Grantham, London and Scotland to benefit from it. The programme was intended to train trainers who were to go back to their churches and train members. A total of 70 members, Bible workers and pastors completed the training.

The trainers were Dr Thomas Jackson and his wife Dr LaVerne Jackson, founders of MEET Ministry, and they ran seminars and gave practical demonstrations of natural health remedies during the day. In the evenings a four-part 'Health, Hope and Healing' Gospel-health programme was run for the community at the Manchester

Academy in Moss Side over the Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday nights. These seminars were well attended and the participants were able to sample natural remedies and learn about our health message and the dangers of certain foods. With the aid of the trainees each night the Jacksons presented natural remedies helpful in treating diabetes, heart disease, cancer and stress.

The Jacksons used the acronym GODS PLAN as a basis for their seminars and to illustrate eight laws of health: Godly trust, Open air, Daily exercise, Sunshine, Plenty of rest, Lots of water, Always temperate, and Nutrition. He also calls them the eight doctors that anyone can afford.

A Muslim lady called Helena was invited to the seminars by Diamond, a Taskforce volunteer responsible for administration at the MTTC office. She attended all the evening seminars even though she could hardly walk due to a severe case of arthritis. Dr Jackson noticed this and suggested some treatment. She took his advice, and by the end of the

week she felt much better and was able to walk to the front of the hall with far less pain than before to thank him for his help. In her touching testimony she said, 'Coming here is the best gift God could have given me. . . .'

The beauty about this health training programme was that it was very balanced and well presented.

SARA FRANCIS



Pastor Thomas

MTTC Bristol

The Bristol Central church, guided by the BJEC (Bristol Joint Evangelism Committee), had mission on their mind when they celebrated International Women's Day on Sunday, 8 March 2015.

The previous day the church had hosted a special Women's Day programme for its members. It was packed with lovely singing and good messages, while all the mothers were treated to a bouquet of flowers from their children.

During the afternoon programme Lady Mayoress Sarah Watson was the special guest. After a short speech about the impact that some women are having in the community, she was presented with a lovely basket of flowers and a selection of literature such as *The Great Controversy* and *Steps to Christ*, which she received gladly.

But back to the Sunday outreach. It all started with a group of seven women who gathered in Mary Philip's room to prepare for the event. After prayer, the group assembled over 400 lovely carnation mini-bouquets, after which they proceeded to ASDA Living in Eastgate to distribute them, equipped with a roller banner with the slogan, 'TIME FOR BRISTOL' (the theme for Mission to the Cities 2015).

As a result of their efforts, all the mini-bouquets were given out to hundreds of happy recipients, along with 20 copies of *Steps to Christ*, and lots of bookmarks, tracts and other literature, such as *What Do Seventh-day Adventists Believe?* That, coupled with friendly smiles and the professional approach of the team, made a positive impression on everyone.

The staff at ASDA allowed the tokens to be handed out in the shop's entrance and have invited the group back to present other events whenever we are ready. Some people also expressed interest in other upcoming activities such as vegetarian/vegan cooking and exercise classes.

MARY PHILIP (HEALTH/COMMUNITY AND DISABILITY MINISTRY LEADER)
PHOTOGRAPHER: NELSON KHONJE

Safeguarding: a shared responsibility for the church

The safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults* in our churches is often overlooked or taken for granted. The church community is viewed as an extension of the home, a familiar place where there is an expectation of safety, kindness and protection. In fact, the church – which is essentially its members, both young and old – is called to be in the world but not of the world (see John 17:15, 16) and should, therefore, be a safe haven.

High-profile cases that make the news, such as the recent Rotherham, Peterborough and Oxford child abuse cases, too easily lead us to point the finger at institutions in the community around us. Seldom do we think, though, that the Church is not immune to such things. Potentially, abuse could be happening under our noses, aided by the use of digital technologies and their online platforms such as smartphones, tablets, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Therefore, while the Church is called to be different from the world it should follow a combined practice, informed both by biblical principles and by the law, in the safeguarding and protection of its children and vulnerable adults. You may be asking yourself, 'How can we do this?' Well, with ten years' experience behind her, welfare officer Dayne Mathieu offers the following suggestions:

Prayer: We are responsible for the welfare of our children and vulnerable adults, and the best place to start is by praying for them regularly and publicly at home and in church.

Counselling services: Professionally qualified and God-fearing counsellors are an asset in every church. If you don't have any, why not encourage and practically support members who are obviously gifted in this area, by the Holy Spirit, to pursue such qualification. The SEC also offers counselling services. To find out more please visit: <http://sec.adventist.org.uk/who-we-are/departments/counselling-service>.

Mentors: It's important for children and vulnerable adults to have



mentors, people they can look up to, confide in and trust. Mentors should not only guide spiritually but, crucially, also be that listening ear that everyone needs. Often that alone can make all the difference in positively impacting a vulnerable life.

Safeguarding referrals and disclosure checks: It is common practice in institutions such as schools, where adults work with children, that they are required by law to complete this procedure. Church safeguarding officers are advised to treat such checks and/or referrals with great care, sensitivity and confidentiality, thereby ensuring the safeguarding and well-being of all church members.

Safeguarding is and should be seen as a purposeful ministry through which we can make the welfare of our children and vulnerable adults a priority in our churches.

For more information on safeguarding please visit: www.nspcc.org.uk.

DARELL PHILIP (HACKNEY CHURCH)

* Vulnerable adults can be defined as: young adults (up to age 21); the elderly; and individuals with a physical and/or mental disability.





A Cooking Course with a healthy difference Intensive 1-week Cooking School Community Cooking Hub (Level 2)

May 17th - 21st 2015
9.00am - 4.00pm

- Understand how to cook to boost health & nutrition for mind, body and spirit.
- Use healthy cooking & nutrition for health evangelism in the community.

daylesford
ORGANIC FARM GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Course located at Daylesford, a 2,350-acre award-winning organic farm in Gloucestershire.

COST AND SUBSIDIES

This cooking school is subsidised by the BUC Health Ministry department. Cost of cooking course is £375 per person (including cooking course and accommodation). Closing dates for payment and application 4 May 2015. Only 14 places available. Place confirmed on payment.

CONTACT Angelette: More info on BUC events.
createnutrition@gmail.com or 07548 736 592



Merton Winter Night Shelter 2015

Wimbledon International Church has, for the fourth year running, participated in the Merton Winter Night Shelter Project for the homeless of the Wimbledon area. This project was organised by the YMCA and another charity and ran for 14 weeks, ending on 8 March 2015. There is a co-ordinator who manages the project and oversees the guest selection process.

There are 14 participating churches, which are divided into two blocks of seven each. Each block of seven churches accommodates the guests for seven weeks at a time. Our church was the venue, from Saturday night till Sunday morning, between 24 January and 8 March.

The guests arrived at 6.30pm each Saturday evening and were welcomed with a hot drink, after which they could enjoy table tennis, chess, draughts and TV. They also had the opportunity to have a shower before being served a hot dinner. After dinner, mattresses and bedding were distributed and the guests enjoyed a comfortable night's sleep. The next morning they were treated to a buffet breakfast of cooked food, fresh fruits, hot drinks and fruit juices before moving on to the next venue. All the meals were prepared by the volunteers.

One of the great joys of running the Night Shelter is to see the guests move on to getting a job and a home to live in. This is what we call success. In fact, we had some guests from last year visit us, to say thank you for the care and support we had given them. For them it was like coming home to the family! Some even said that our venue served the best food, which was a compliment to our cooks. One of the guests from last year has not drunk alcohol for seven months, is now working for a charity, and hopes to start a paying job shortly.

There was a good atmosphere among the guests and our dedicated volunteers, and we enjoy the full support of our pastor. We thank God for guiding us in this project, so that we can reach out to our community, sharing Jesus' love with them.

DAVID SOUCH



An 'uplifting' experience

'It was one of the most uplifting hours I have experienced.' So said the manager of a Renfrew care home in a 'thank you' card to members of the Paisley church choir. 'I have had many positive comments from visitors and residents. We would love to have the choir perform on a regular basis and wonder if I could book this please,' she said.

The church has chosen local care homes as an outreach activity. Choir leader, Gibson Kabaso, says, 'It is marvellous to witness what happens when a choir sings from their hearts to the glory of God.'

JOHN WILBY

obituary

Munyaradzi Memory (Munya Chinyama)

(1979-2015) d. 28 January.



Dundee Church was overflowing with grieving family and friends from all over Scotland, England and Zimbabwe on Tuesday, 3 February, for the funeral of Munyaradzi Memory. This vibrant young wife and mother died peacefully in Ninewells Hospital after a courageous battle with cancer. Munyaradzi was born on 6 May 1979 in Mutare, Zimbabwe, where she attended primary, secondary and high schools before completing a secretarial course at Mutare Technical College. She started working in Mutare before moving to Dundee in 2002, where she did her nursing course and worked until she married Justin Chinyama in April 2007.

Munyaradzi was a very active member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, right from her early childhood and throughout her adult life. She energetically participated in the Pathfinder and youth groups. She was blessed with a beautiful voice and started singing from a very young age. She became a member of the Dangamvura church choir and sang with Harmonic Waves. She was the firstborn of a large family and was exemplary in her care for her sisters and brothers. She was a hardworking daughter who was always thinking of her mother, her dad and her siblings and was always willing to support them in every way possible.

Munyaradzi started working as a qualified staff nurse at Victoria Hospital, Kirkcaldy, in 2006. She then moved to Royal Victoria Hospital, Dundee, in 2007 and worked in the Brain Injury Unit

until her retirement in August 2014 due to ill health. She was blessed with two lovely children, a daughter, Blossom, and a son, Justin Junior. Munyaradzi was an active member of Dundee Church and enjoyed Messy Church, Toddlers Group and women's retreats. Her husband, Justin, faithfully cared for her during the sad and difficult time when she was not well. These two loved each other, their children and the whole family. Her illness took her through a very distressing time of pain and hardship but, despite it all, she remained faithful to the Lord until the day she took her rest at the young age of just 36 years.

Munyaradzi's mother came over to be with her daughter during the last few months. At the funeral she said 'Ndatenda' (thanks) to Pastor Marcel Ghioalda and all the church members for the love they showed to Munyaradzi, to Justin, to his whole family and to her. Munyaradzi's faithfulness as a wife and mother, her cheerfulness and good humour, and her beautiful singing were a great inspiration to many. Munyaradzi was a warm, loving and inspirational person who is profoundly missed, not just by her family, but by her church too. A huge company of mourners and well-wishers accompanied her as she was laid to rest in Barnhill Cemetery near Dundee.

PROFESSOR JOHN C. WALTON

PRAYER EVANGELISM MINISTRY

Sponsored by the GC Revival and Reformation Committee

100 DAYS OF UNITED PRAYER

LEADING INTO...

WORLD GC SESSION: JULY 2-11, 2015

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

"A chain of earnest, praying believers should encircle the world...."
Reflecting Christ, p. 121

This initiative begins on 25 March, 2015.

waterloo east theatre
www.waterlooeast.co.uk

Carmel Greystone & Agape Theatre Company
present

ASYLUM

Written & Directed
by Mark Grey

"Every Woman Seeks A Sanctuary..."

"Theatre's great secret is out.
Mark Grey is one of London's
best kept secrets."
Kentish Times

Waterloo East Theatre
Brad Street SE1 8TN

May 7th - May 10th

Box Office 020 7928 0060
Online Bookings www.waterlooeast.co.uk

Thurs - Sat 7:30pm
Sunday 4pm
£15/£12
THURSDAY £10!

NEC CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES DEPARTMENT

Train Up a Child...

PARENTING EMPHASIS

WEEKEND (Area 6)

WHEN: Saturday, 19th Sept. 2015
9:30am - 6:15pm
Sunday, 20th Sept. 2015
10am - 3pm

WHERE: Wolverhampton Central
Seventh-day Adventist Church
Warwick Street, Horsley Fields
Wolverhampton WV1 3SD

GUEST SPEAKERS:
Clair Sanches (TED Children's & Family Ministries Director) & Dr. John Sanches

Contact NEC Children's Ministries Dept. on 0115 9606 312 or visit www.necadventist.org.uk.

TRAIN ...up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.
Proverbs 22:6

hallelujah

KidzPraise

DAY OF FELLOWSHIP

SAT 23 MAY 2015

WATFORD COLOSSEUM
Rickmansworth Road
Watford WD17 3JN

Starts 10am (doors open 9.30am)

Afternoon concert starts at 3pm! Be there to be blessed!

Bring packed lunch!

Call Watford Colosseum Box Office on 0845 075 3993 for your FREE tickets!

WWW.KIDZPRAISE.CO.UK

ADRA-UK trainee programme

ADRA-UK is offering the opportunity for someone to work with our office for a one-year period (starting summer 2015). The ADRA-UK trainee programme will offer the successful candidate the opportunity to work within a high-profile NGO in programme development. The programme is designed to give individuals practical experience in different locations around the world in preparation for a possible career in international development.

The trainee will be involved with supporting ADRA-UK's implementing partners on proposal development for DFID and the EC, donor compliance, monitoring and evaluation and donor reporting.

During the year the trainee will be based primarily at our Watford office with short-term placements overseas with our partner offices in developing countries.

ADRA-UK will provide access to professional training at various levels in international development during the year.

Requirements:

- A Bachelor's degree or NVQ in a relevant subject;
- A strong interest in relief and development issues;
- Excellent analytical, verbal and written communication skills;
- Fluency in English;
- The right to work in the UK prior to submission of the trainee application;
- Being able and willing to travel to challenging areas of the world;
- A passion for serving hurting humanity;
- Being an enthusiastic motivator;
- Sympathy with the aims and ethos of ADRA-UK.

ADRA-UK is offering this position as a one-year contract. Possibilities to extend the trainee programme to a career path may be available upon successful completion of the trainee period.

The deadline for receipt of applications is **30 June 2015**.



EVANGELISM DEPARTMENT, BRITISH UNION CONFERENCE

CORE

In a Location Near You!
9-16 MAY 2015

The Missions

- Reading West
- New Life
- Stoke Newington
- Palmers Green
- Croydon
- London Ghana
- Portuguese Church
- Area 6D

*Rediscover Our Essential Doctrines...
While not forgetting the Christ-Centred
elements of each doctrine...*

Total Praise UK PRESENTS

ISRAEL J ALLEN | SOUL 11 SOUL SINGER MELISSA BELL | DANIEL COSTIN | READING COMMUNITY CHOIR | TOTTENHAM GOSPEL CHOIR

Also Featuring:

LIVE band, re:FineD, Coventry University Gospel Rhythms, Pauline Oxley & Samuel, Sophie Jackson Hale

Refreshments Available On Sale

Tickets Can Be Purchased From:
www.eventjoy.com
and the Alban Arena website and box office

£10

Venue: Alban Arena, Civic Centre, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL1 3LD

IN ASSOCIATION WITH: UGN JAMZ AFM ARONA ADVENTIST

27.06.2015
Doors open 6.30pm for 7pm

REACHING THE UNREACHED

BENEFIT CONCERT FOR ADVENTIST FRONTIER MISSIONS

Visit the BUC website at: www.adventist.org.uk
ISSN 0309-3654

Messenger

Volume 120 • 08 – 30 April 2015

Editor: Julian Hibbert
Design: David Bell
Proof reading: Andrew Puckering

COPY FOR No. 10 – 30 April 2015

Copy should be sent to the Editor, *Messenger*, The Stanborough Press Limited, Alma Park, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 9SL. Tel: (01476) 591700. Fax No: (01476) 577144.
Email: Editor@stanboroughpress.org.uk
Send high-resolution pictures to: dbell@stanboroughpress.org.uk
ABC Sales line: (01476) 591700 Mon-Thurs only, 8am-5.30pm.
www.stanboroughpress.com

The Editor may alter, clarify, précis or expand articles sent to him if he thinks it necessary. Published fortnightly on Fridays by the British Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. For general enquiries, email: info@stanboroughpress.org.uk
Printed in the UK.

Visit the BUC website at: www.adventist.org.uk
ISSN 0309-3654

Sunset

Sunset times are reproduced with permission from data supplied by HM Nautical Almanac Office.

	Lond	Card	Nott	Edin	Belf
Apr 24	8.12	8.24	8.20	8.37	8.44
May 1	8.23	8.36	8.32	8.51	8.57
	8.35	8.47	8.44	9.05	9.10
	8.45	8.58	8.56	9.19	9.22

MESSENGER SUBSCRIPTIONS
Cost \$25 per annum for 24 issues.*
*Postage will only be charged for single copy subscriptions and overseas airmail.